

MEMORIAL

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ILLINOIS,

Praying that compensation be made to certain citizens of that State who served in the Militia, and as Rangers, during the late war; and that an appropriation be made for opening a road from St. Louis to Galena.

FEBRUARY 16, 1829.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Congress of the United States,

The General Assembly of the State of Illinois

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT:

That a portion of the citizens now residing at the Fever River Lead Mines, in 1827, and who performed meritorious services, besides having sustained losses from Indian disturbances, have not been paid by the government for those services, or in any way remunerated for losses. The citizens here particularly referred to, are the citizens residing within the mining country at the period when the Indian disturbances commenced, and before the troops of the government could arrive to their assistance. They erected several fortifications, employed their horses, oxen, and wagons, for that purpose; enrolled themselves for militia duty, and continued under officers of their own selection, to perform the most labored and watchful militia services, until the measures of the general government for their security were brought into successful operation. These men were also encouraged by Governor Cass to fortify and defend the several mining establishments; and assured by him, as is believed, that they would be remunerated for their services. They are the only portion of the militia, called into service, who have not received some compensation; and this because they were not called according to usage in the United States' service, and which could not have been done in time to save the place. It is conceived that they are justly entitled to compensation from the general government, since they actually saved for it property to a vast amount. Had not those citizens adopted these measures above-mentioned, in all probability the whole of that section of country would have been abandoned, the houses and personal property and improvements destroyed, and all the lead belonging to the United States and individuals removed, and the place taken possession of by the Indians. It is therefore respectfully submitted to the government, whether those citizens should not be paid a reasonable compensation for their services.

The General Assembly also avail themselves of this opportunity to present to the consideration of the general government, the claims of another class of our citizens, whose services they believe to be equally deserving of reward. During the last war with Great Britain, when this territory was thinly inhabited, and exposed in its whole extent to the ravages of the hostile Indians, a few brave men, viz. William McHenry, and thirty others, enrolled themselves into a military band, under what was then called the Ranging Service, and successfully defended the country, not only at the hazard of their lives, but at a great sacrifice of time, property, and personal inconvenience. These claims have been forwarded to the proper Department of the general government, and the evidences thereof have been deposited in the office of the Third Auditor, at Washington. It is respectfully solicited that those claims be taken up, and disposed of, as Congress in its wisdom may deem just.

It is further respectfully represented, that a land communication between St. Louis and Galena, on the Upper Mississippi, is of great importance, and if improved would accommodate all emigrants to that section of country, when the navigation is obstructed either by ice or low water. We believe that an adequate appropriation for reviewing and opening a road from St. Louis to Galena is loudly called for. That the Legislature of this State do not conceive they have a right to perform the work, as they do not own the land through which the road runs. They therefore solicit the aid of Congress herein.

THOMAS MATHER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM KINNEY,
Speaker of the Senate.

Attest:

WM. LEE D. EWING, *Clk. H. Reps.*
E. J. WEST, *Sec'y Senate.*